

Country Covenant Crossroads

February 2009

Country Evangelical Covenant Church

43W510 McDonald Rd. Campton Hills, IL 60124

847.464.5381

www.countrycov.org

A Place to Believe, to Belong, and to Become
Pastor Mark Harder



Under Construction...

Pastor Mark himself is “under construction” (or maybe that’s under the weather) at the time of this newsletter printing...

The following is provided by Bonnie Siems from a David Wilkerson newsletter:

“The Lord gently instructed me to go to 2Corinthians 9:6-11 and said that everything I needed was contained in this passage: “But I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness) Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”

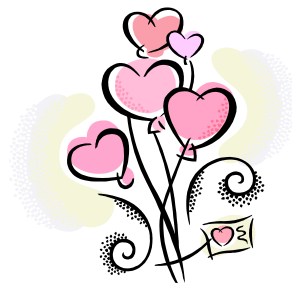
As I read this passage and then reread it, I got nothing from it for my situation. Finally, I closed my Bible and prayed: “Lord, I’m confused. I see nothing here to help or encourage me.”

Finally the Spirit spoke forcefully but lovingly to my inner man: “David, this has everything to do with what you’re going through. Lately you have been serving me without a bountiful, cheerful spirit. Where is your joy and happiness in your service to me? My Word isn’t talking only about giving money to help the poor. It is speaking of ministry to me and to my body.”



Dates for your calendar:

- Feb. 1 – Super Bowl Party
- Feb. 7 – Women’s Winter Retreat
- Feb. 7 – Men’s Breakfast
- Feb. 8 – Women Ministries Sunday
- Feb. 14 – Valentine Dinner
- Mar.6-8 – Men’s Retreat at Covenant Point
- Mar. 14 –  UNO Night



Wednesdays:

How well do you answer questions on your faith?
What does the Bible say?

On Wednesday nights in 2009 we will explore 26 “formational footholds of faith”. These studies are for both new and mature Christians, offering resources for deeper understanding into faith.

RockSolid is the study guide we’ll be using. It provides a journal with scripture passages and insightful articles that will help explain the footholds and their application to daily life.

Plan to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

Women's Retreat...

Is it on your calendar? Have you invited a friend to join you? **Saturday, February 7** will be just the fun and inspiring day you need in the middle of this cold, snowy winter. Sylvia will be our presenter, and we're looking forward to a great time together between 9:30am and 2:00pm.

Please tell Linda Palm or Mindy Gourley that you'll be there.

Attention Men!

On **Saturday Feb 7** we'll have our first men's breakfast. Join us at **8:00am** at the Rose Garden Restaurant on Main Street in Hampshire (across from the Chrysler dealership.) We have great fellowship and plan future locations, dates, time, etc. Bring your ideas!

Women Ministries

As women of Country Covenant, we are blessed to have another year to serve God and our church and to fellowship with each other. We have planned service projects, demonstrations, outings, and times for fellowship.

Women Ministries Sunday will be February 8. Sylvia Harder will preach and women of the church will be greeters and ushers.

Our project for 2009 will again be Break the Chains of Human Trafficking. Our donation last year was over \$1100. Thanks to all who donated money, brought items to the Silent Auction and bought items. We will be accepting monetary donations for this project on February 8.

We encourage you to create a 2009 Thank Bank. Over the year as you are mindful of things you are thankful for, write them down and put that note along with a donation in your bank. At our November meeting, we'll share these reminders.

Let the Spirit Lead!

what the Sunshine Boys & Girls have been up to...

- Leak repaired – West wall of the basement Sunday School room (\$225 if you'd like to help cover this cost – please mark your check)

Another leak repaired- Wally Tasche came on Saturday morning to set up tables for the annual meeting. The floor was flooded due to a pipe that froze and split open. This was our base board heating. About 5" of bad pipe was cut out and a new piece soldered in place.

Country Covenant Adult Fellowship

It's February and time for our annual **Valentine's Day** celebration. Plan to join us at 6:00 pm on **Saturday, Feb 14** for a special evening with friends. We'll have a Chef Cody dinner, and here's what you can look forward to:

- Boursin Stuffed Beef Wellington with a demi glaze
- Garlic Sautéed Asparagus Tips
- Herb Roasted Red Skin Potatoes
- and dessert! a duo of white and chocolate mousse with fresh berries served in a chocolate cup

A menu like this in a real restaurant would go for \$30+, but Cody will prepare it for us for only \$18/person.

Valentine's Day is fast approaching, so we need to get a count to him soon. Mary Ebert will collect money and sign up help on Sunday, Feb. 1st and Feb. 8th. Be sure to make your reservation!



Outreach opportunity updates...

The first Sunday of each month in 2009 will continue to be our collection day for **Centro de Informacion**. Food donations are very appreciated by Centro and monetary donations help with purchases through the Northern Illinois Food Bank Network where our dollars stretch much farther than normal retail buying.

Russian Radio offering:

Donations for 2008 totaled \$847.37

Angel Tree:

About \$400 was donated for Bibles and books to be given to families along with Christmas gifts. \$190 of that remains to be used to help a family as needed in the future.



Wise words from Lynn...

Blood transfusions from donors save lives and February 14 is designated as National Donor Day. Every two seconds someone in this country needs blood, and more than 23 million units are transfused each year. What's a more meaningful gift than giving a part of yourself? Consider giving blood. It takes less than an hour but can give someone else a lifetime!



December financial information:

Receipts	\$ 18,421.89
Expenses	<u>13,622.31</u>
Difference	4,799.08

2008 Year totals:

Receipts	\$ 121,921.63
Expenses	<u>126,845.11</u>
Difference	-4,923.48

As of January 25, 2009 \$1943 has been donated to the snow removal fund through monetary donations and bake sales. The cost of snow plowing for December was \$2060.00

Green Tip:

Did you know you can recycle athletic shoes? One World Running will send still-wearable shoes to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America, and Haiti. Check out www.oneworldrunning.com. Nike's Reuse-a-shoe program turns old shoes into playground and athletic flooring. Find out more at www.nikereuseashoe.com.

Are you saving those **aluminum cans**! Keep them out of the landfills and we can turn them into cash for a project to be named later. Drop them off at Lynn's house or bring them to church.

Reminder!

If you're the last one out of the church, please check to be sure all the lights are turned off and the doors are locked.

Newsletter info...

Do you have news for next month's newsletter? Please submit it to Nancy in the church office by **January 20**.



2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Communion Service Food Pantry Collection</p> <p>4:00p Superbowl Party</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Groundhog Day</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Norman Rockwell's Birthday</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30p <u>rocksolid</u> Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>International Pancake Day</i></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00a Men's Breakfast 9:30a Women's Retreat</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Women Ministries Sunday</p> <p>2:00pm Service at Rosewood Care Center</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>The Beatles appeared on Ed Sullican Show - 1964</i></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30p <u>rocksolid</u> Study B-day: George Kosten B-day: Holly Richardson</p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday</i></p> <p>B-Day: Mary Ebert</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Valentine's Day</i></p> <p>6:00p Valentine Dinner Anniv: Kurt & Holly Richardson</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>President's Day</i></p> <p>B-day: Cody Delask</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Pluto Discovered - 1930</i></p> <p>6:30p <u>rocksolid</u> Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>US Landing on Iwo Jima 1945</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>B-day: Roger Gilbert</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Christian Russian Radio Collection</p> <p>B-day: Pat Bergman</p>	<p>23</p> <p>B-day: Nancy Allen B-day: Kurt Richardson</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>6:30p <u>rocksolid</u> Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>National Tooth Fairy Day</i></p>
<p>Church Office Phone 847-464-5381 Church Fax Line 847-464-5355 Church Secretary 847-464-1722</p>	<p>Every Sunday</p> <p>9:30am Adult SS 10:30am Morning Worship & Children's SS</p>					<p>"I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love" John 15:9</p>